

Daniel Boone Birthplace
1.2 miles north of U. S. Route 422, Exeter Township
Baumstown Vicinity
Berks County
Pennsylvania

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HABS No. ~~PA-1028~~

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

DANIEL BOONE BIRTHPLACE

Location: Pennsylvania, Berks County, Baumstown Vicinity,
Exeter Township, 1.2 miles north of U. S. Route 422.

Present Owner: The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Present Use: Museum.

Brief Statement
of Significance: A well-preserved and restored home of the pioneer
Boone family, exemplifying the English influence
in the early architecture of the Schuylkill Valley.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: This farm was purchased by Squire Boone, Daniel Boone's father, from Ralph Ashton October 20, 1730. The family is supposed to have moved to this site in the Spring, 1731, living first in a log cabin until the first part of the present house was erected in 1735.

When the Boone family moved to North Carolina, Squire Boone sold this place, described as "a certain messuage or tene-ment and tract of land containing 158-3/4 acres," to William Maugridge, April 10, 1750. / Stoudt, "Daniel and Squire Boone" /. Acquired by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1938 / Federal Writers' Project, Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State; Joint State Government Commission, Catalog of Historical Buildings, Sites and Remains in Pennsylvania /.

2. Date of erection: The exact date of erection is not known, but most of the authorities cited below agree that the first part of the house was built about 1735, shortly after Daniel Boone's birth.
3. Alterations and additions: The present house was built in two sections, as is apparent from a joint in the masonry, the second part being added in 1779 / Federal Writers' Project, Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State; Joint State Government Commission, Catalog of Historical Buildings, Sites and Remains in Pennsylvania /. An undated illustration

in Montgomery, History of Berks County, published in 1886, presumably shows the state of the house before 1779. The illustration shows only the two bays now at the west end of the house with the present center chimney in the original east end wall. Except for a porch across the entire front, the drawing of the original section is like that part of the present restored building. The present owners spent \$17,000 on the purchase and restoration of the building before opening it to the public in 1938. / Federal Writers' Project, Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State /.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Squire Boone, Daniel Boone's father, came to America in 1713. He married Sarah Morgan in 1720 at Gwynedd Meeting. Their son Daniel was born at this site, but probably in an earlier building, on October 22, 1734 old style reckoning or November 2, 1734 new style reckoning, the sixth of eleven children. The family lived here until 1750 when they moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, staying briefly in Virginia on the way.

George Boone, III, the head of the Boone family in this country, and Squire's brother, George Boone IV, also settled in this area of Pennsylvania. / Stoudt, "Daniel and Squire Boone" /.

C. References:

1. Croll, P. C., Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading, Penna.: The Reading Eagle Press, 1926) pp. 23-24.
2. Federal Writers' Project, Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State (New York: Oxford University Press, 1940) P. 432.
3. Joint State Government Commission, Catalog of Historical Buildings, Sites and Remains in Pennsylvania, A Report to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, March, 1949, P. 8.
4. Montgomery, Morton L., History of Berks County in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Everts, Peck and Richards, 1886) pp. 973-974.
5. Stoudt, John Joseph, "Daniel and Squire Boone," The Historical Review of Berks County, Vol. 1, no. 4, (July, 1936) pp. 108-114.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This two-story house is typical of the houses built by English Quakers who settled in the lower Cley Valley with its long rectangular plan, low pitched roof, and end chimney.

The foundations and walls of the house are of stone. The porch across the south is frame and may be a later addition. The house was built in two sections, the earliest section being at the west end. Originally there was one chimney at the east end; when the house was extended, this became a central chimney, and another chimney was built at the east end of the new addition.

There is one door on the north and two on the south. These six panel doors are set in very simple frames. The windows are nine over six, double hung sash on the first floor, and six over six on the second floor. The first floor windows have solid, three-panel shutters painted white.

The roof is a gable covered with wood shingles. There are no dormers. The boxed cornice continues across the gable ends to form a pent. Also, there is a pent above the first floor windows that encircles the house on all four sides.

The earliest part of the house was two stories, with a single room on each floor. This was built over the foundations of the original log cabin. The cellar of this portion contains the spring. The later portion of the house consisted of a first floor of two rooms extending eastward. The second floor of the later portion is now divided into three small bedrooms, the partitions of which appear to be of recent date.

There are two, narrow, enclosed wood stairways, one rising from the west room and the other from the central room. The floors are of wide, unpainted boards, the walls and ceilings are plaster. The great fireplace opens into the central room which is the kitchen. There is a large crown mold above the lintel of the central fireplace. The most elaborate trim occurs in the east room where there is a chair rail and a single panel above the fireplace. The hardware is of the period of the house.

The Boone house faces south with a white rail fence enclosing the farm yard. The fence and planting are recent.

Prepared by
Drury B. Alexander, Supervisor
Schuylkill Valley Project, Reading, Pa.
University of Pennsylvania, for NPS
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